

Claims

1 1. A method for shipping/mailing articles
2 comprising the steps of:
3 generating shipping/mailing data for one of the
4 articles at one of a plurality of client terminals which
5 are linked to a host terminal, wherein generating
6 comprises information transfer between the client
7 terminal and the host terminal; and
8 producing the shipping/mailing data for generating a
9 shipper's label.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein producing
2 comprises printing the shipping/mailing data.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein producing
2 comprises encoding the shipping/mailing data in a 2-
3 dimensional bar code.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein producing
2 comprises encrypting the data.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein producing
2 comprises shuffling the data.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein generating the
2 shipping/mailing data comprises referring to an
3 electronic address book.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein generating the
2 shipping/mailing data comprises pasting from a clipboard.

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1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein generating the
2 shipping/mailing data comprises selecting a carrier.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein generating the
2 shipping/mailing data comprises selecting a class of
3 service.

1 10. The method of claim claim 1, wherein generating
2 the shipping/mailing data comprises referring to a
3 database of valid addresses for validation.

1 11. The method of claim claim 10, wherein referring
2 to the database of valid addresses yields a proposed
3 address.

1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein generating the
2 shipping/mailing data comprises address standardizing.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein standardizing
2 takes into account how many lines an address has.

1 14. The method of claim 10, wherein referring to a
2 database is effected for a batch of addresses.

1 15. The method of claim 1, wherein an application
2 for servicing the client terminals keeps running even in
3 the absence of a request from a client terminal.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the host
2 terminal has a launcher application for keeping the
3 application running.

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1 17. The method of claim 1, further comprising the
2 host terminal referring to a hardware key for enforcing
3 license compliance.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein license
2 compliance comprises compliance with a maximum number of
3 client terminals being serviced by the host terminal.

1 19. The method of claim 17, further comprising the
2 host terminal making callbacks to the client terminal.

1 20. The method of claim 17, further comprising the
2 host terminal allowing a different terminal to fill in
3 for a disconnected terminal

1 21. A medium comprising computer-interpretable
2 instructions for effecting a method for shipping/mailing
3 articles, comprising instructions for:
4 generating shipping/mailing data for one of the
5 articles at one of a plurality of client terminals which
6 are linked to a host terminal, wherein generating
7 comprises information transfer between the client
8 terminal and the host terminal; and
9 producing the shipping/mailing data for generating a
10 shipper's label.

1 22. The medium of claim 21, including instructions
2 for printing the shipping/mailing data.

1 23. The medium of claim 21, including instructions
2 for encoding the shipping/mailing data in a 2-dimensional
3 bar code.

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1 24. The medium of claim 21, including instructions
2 for encrypting the data.

1 25. The medium of claim 21, including instructions
2 for shuffling the data.

1 26. The medium of claim 21, including instructions
2 for referring to an electronic address book in generating
3 the shipping mailing/mailing data.

1 27. The medium of claim 21, including instructions
2 for pasting from a clipboard in generating the
3 shipping/mailling data.

1 28. The medium of claim 21, including instructions
2 for selecting a carrier.

1 29. The medium of claim 21, including instructions
2 for selecting a class of service.

1 30. The medium of claim 21, including instructions
2 for referring to a database of valid addresses for
3 validation.

1 31. The medium of claim 30, wherein referring to
2 the database of valid addresses yields a proposed
3 address.

1 32. The medium of claim 20, including instructions
2 for address standardizing.

1 33. The medium of claim 32, wherein standardizing
2 takes into account how many lines an address has.

1 34. The medium of claim 30, wherein referring to a
2 database is for a batch of addresses.

1 35. The medium of claim 21, including instructions
2 for keeping an application for servicing the client
3 running even in the absence of a request from a client
4 terminal.

1 36. The medium of claim 35, including instructions
2 for loading a launcher application.

1 37. The medium of claim 21, including instructions
2 for the host terminal to refer to a hardware key for
3 enforcing license compliance.

1 38. The medium of claim 37, wherein license
2 compliance comprises compliance with a maximum number of
3 client terminals being serviced by the host terminal.

1 39. The medium of claim 37, including instructions
2 for the host terminal to make callbacks to the client
3 terminals.

1 40. The medium of claim 37, including instructions
2 for the host terminal to allow a different terminal to
3 fill in for a disconnected terminal.

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